

(Amended Claims)

IAP9 Rec'd PCT/PTO 07 APR 2006

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A liquid supply method that prepares a solution by continuously
5 supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid
circulation tube, that uses

a liquid supply apparatus that comprises:

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and

a supply liquid circulation tube that causes the supply liquid to flow
10 from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal
diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm,
wherein

when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid
circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P1 of the supply liquid
15 in the supply section and a pressure P2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid
circulation tube always satisfy the formula $P1 - P2 > 0$.

2. The liquid supply method according to claim 1, wherein the supply liquid
circulation tube is formed in a hollow fiber shape.

20

3. The liquid supply method according to claim 1, wherein the primary fluid is
ultrapure water, and the supply liquid is an electrolytic aqueous solution.

4. The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein $P1/P2 = 1.01$ to 10.

5. The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein an electrolyte concentration of the primary fluid to which the supply liquid is supplied is between 0.00001 and 0.1 percent by mass.

5

6. The liquid supply method according to claim 3, wherein a supply quantity of the supply liquid is between 0.001 and 10 cm³/ minute.

7. The liquid supply method according to any one of claims 2 to 6, wherein a ratio X/Y between a flow quantity X of the supply solution and a flow rate Y of the primary fluid is between 1/1000000 and 1/1000.

10

8. (Amended) A liquid supply apparatus that prepares a solution by continuously supplying a supply liquid to a primary fluid that is circulating in a primary fluid circulation tube, the liquid supply apparatus comprising:

15

a supply section that delivers the supply liquid; and

a supply liquid circulation tube that causes the supply liquid to flow from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube, the internal diameter of the supply liquid circulation tube being between 0.01 and 1 mm, wherein

20

when the supply solution is supplied from the supply section to the primary fluid circulation tube via the supply liquid circulation tube, a pressure P1 of the supply liquid in the supply section and a pressure P2 of the primary fluid in the primary fluid circulation tube always satisfy the formula

$P1 - P2 > 0$.

25

9. The liquid supply apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the supply liquid circulation tube is formed in a hollow fiber shape.